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[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/gilbert/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/gilbert/)

For Immediate Release  
September 29, 2005

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## **Gilbert to fix St. Clair County RESA school bus problem**

**LANSING** – Sen. Jud Gilbert is seeking a legislative solution to a recent problem that has arisen regarding reimbursement of school bus storage and maintenance costs.

It has come to Gilbert's attention that the St. Clair County Regional Educational Services Agency (Formerly St. Clair County Intermediate School District) is trying to save money and jobs by storing its special education buses at a public school, and the school is actually being financially penalized for finding a cheaper alternative than using private storage facilities.

"It's ridiculous that we are penalizing schools for trying to conduct their business more efficiently. Common sense dictates we should be giving them every opportunity available to do so," said Gilbert, R-Algonac. "I am looking into what legislative action needs to be taken to remedy this situation. I will be meeting with the Department of Education, and hope to have this matter resolved as quickly as possible."

Currently, intermediate school districts that hire private companies for bus storage and maintenance are reimbursed 70-percent of their cost by the state. However, if the ISD contracts with another local district for this service, the ISD receives no reimbursement.

"I really appreciate Senator Gilbert getting on top of this so quickly, so St. Clair County RESA can have this problem fixed. I also want to thank Superintendent Mike Flanagan for his willingness to support correction of the problem," said Dan DeGrow, superintendent of the St. Clair County Regional Educational Service Agency.

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**Comments from Sen. Gilbert will be available this afternoon for download on the Senate Majority Audiowire at [www.senate.michigan.gov/gop](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop).**